



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
 1015 East Montecito Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93103
 (805)962-3633



October 2025 Geppo

Monthly Services are held the Second Saturday at 10:00 am

CALENDAR

October 11 Service, Sat. 10:00 am,
Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要

Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakushinni Memorial Service

October 12, 11-3, Presidio: SBTHP 16th Asian American Festival;

BCSB will be tabling at event, 11 am – 3 pm;

Roberta Cook and volunteers (you?) will dance Obon Odori, One plus One, and Coal Miners Dance.



Eshinni



Kakushinni

Memorial Service will be held for:

MR. ISABURO TOYAMA	MRS. YONE KUROZUMI
MR. MASATOSHI KUROKI	MR. YASUSHI ISHIHARA
MR. TOSHIHARU WADA	MR. KUMAJIRO NISHIMURA
MISS YACHIYO SAKAMOTO	MRS. MOTO HIRASHIMA
MR. JUKICHI SHIOSAWA	MR. ICHIJIRO OZORA
MR. ZENICHI YASUDA	MR. SHINI NAKAHIRA
MR. SAKAMOTO	MR. RINZABURO KUROZUMI
MRS. KIWA TAKEUCHI	MRS. TSUGI NAKAMURA
MRS HISA MUNENO	THE NOMURA FAMILY
MRS. HATSUYE TANAKA	MRS. SUYENO KOGA
THE TANAKA FAMILY	MRS. YOSHIKO NAKASHIMO
MR. GEORGE OCHI	MRS. MITSUKO BABA
MISS HARUKO KOZAKI	MR. GEORGE TAKEO OKAMOTO
MR. SHOKEN SASAKI	



September 2025 Donations to Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

Treasurer's Report, Sets Furuike –

\$2767

Thank you! to Sets Furuike for her volunteer work in tracking all donations, paying our bills, and as the main liaison to official correspondence and other temples!

Contact us: (805)962-3633 or Mail@buddhistchurchsantabarbara.org

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The temple gratefully acknowledges the financial donations from the following groups and individuals:

<u>Memorial Service</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Autumn Ohigan</u>
M/M Dennis Furuike (Hidekichi Okino) Mary Hide (Sasano Kanetomo) JJ Uyehara (Emi Uyehara) Susie Okada Nakata (Hiroshi Okada, Jutaro Aoyagi) M/M Dennis Tokumaru (Richard Tokumaru)	Monday Qigong (August) Dennis Ito (September) <u>Obon</u> Jeanne Gray	M/M Dennis Furuike M/M Ted Muneno M/M Rafael Ikeda Anon Junko Torigoe Mary Saito

In addition, there were amazing in-kind contributions, donations, and in-depth services this past September! Thank you! To all

- Contributions for Monthly Services – **Jodi Miles** donates and arranges amazing floral arrangements; **M/M Furuike** bring fruit (*osonae*) for the altar and also clean; **JJ and Doug** make the white rice (*obuppan*) offerings; **Ted Muneno** sets up the social hall and cleans the floors; **Rev. JP** designs the service flyers and puts notices in the **Independent** and other media; **Christophe** posts notices to webpage, facebook, and Instagram; **Dennis Ito** cleans the landscaping prior to service. And, of course, sangha brings food to share!
- But that's not all!



- **Dennis Ito** replaced the broken board in the walkway. It was a safety hazard! He also stabilized the walkway bench. Please feel free to sit on the bench.
- **Ted Muneno** is donating double wooden doors to replace BCSB's entry doors that are delaminating and scratched.
- **Ted Muneno** also found a low table for our conference library room. He is also donating his time to refinish it.
- **Junko Torigoe** donated historical documents and photos. She is also lending happi coats to use for templates for future happi coats.
- And, the **Cabinet** solved administrative and legal certification issues for BCSB! Outside of any of our expertise, so there was a lot of research and learning.
- **Rev. JP deGuzman** purchased and donated a high-capacity color printer! JJ's personal color printers needed new ink cartridges monthly – a higher cost/page.

MINISTERS and MINISTER ASSISTANTS. A year ago, Jodi Miles led some monthly services. She had had some training as an Assistant Minister, and led chanting and delivered spirited Dharma messages. In February, we listened to Bishop Harada's Dharma message welcoming new and old members. He noted that it is brave to come to a service for the first time, and

he was grateful for all. Bishop Harada leads the continental US Jodo Shinshu temples. Now, BCSB has had the lively, certified Minister Assistant, Rev. JP deGuzman! He brings a fresh outlook and weaves lessons in Shin Buddhism using contemporary media. Rev. JP earned his Tokudo ordination level in 2023. See his article. For service on Oct 11, we are fortunate to have Rev. Blake

Honda, the new resident minister at Oxnard. Rev. Honda has passed two levels of ordination: Tokudo and Kyoshi. After a year as resident minister, Rev. Honda can receive Kaikyoshi ordination, and become BCSB's minister. Until then, Rev. Furumoto is the BCSB and Oxnard Temple's supervising minister as well as the minister for Senshin Buddhist Temple in LA.

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Photos, L-R: Bishop Harada, Rev. JP deGuzman, and Rev. Furumoto. Rev. Furumoto was teaching JJ how to lead chanting as a Layperson lead. Need to sit on the same level as the Sangha, chant Ju Sei Ge at pitch of Middle E except for a few words, gassho with hands at heart level and straight back, with onenju (beads), and strike bell for tones at the proper times and volume. (Yikes!)

Zenchishiki: A Good Dharma Friend

By: Rev JP deGuzman

Unfortunately, I will be unable to join BCSB's October service because I am scheduled to attend a Minister's Assistant Program training session. However, the show must go on!

We are lucky that Rev. Blake Honda, the new minister of the Oxnard Buddhist Temple, will officiate the October service. For me, Rev. Honda is what we call in Japanese a *zenchishiki*, or in Pali, a *kalyāṇa-mittatā*, or in English, a good dharma friend. This is not simply a friend who we know from the temple, but rather a friend, fellow traveler, and guide who helps us awaken to the essence of Buddhism and are instrumental in our spiritual health and growth.

Rev. Honda was in my cohort that studied in preparation for the rigorous ordination training in Kyoto, Japan in December 2023. That program was roughly 11 days and 10 nights of intense, regimented study, practice, and assessment. It was not for the faint of heart, but even before we set foot on *Kansai** soil, I knew I was in good hands with Blake Sensei*. From the get-go, he exuded a restorative calmness which was needed in the high intensity trainings. Although coming from a family steeped in Jodo Shinshu teachings, he approached every new teaching

and task with a beginner's mind and kindness that sustained all of us.

One day when we were riding low in the saddle during a particularly grueling training, he buoyed our spirits and encouraged us all to continue practicing. The *gambatte** spirit paid off as we all went on to Kyoto.

The day before we entered the minister's training center, Blake Sensei invoked Shinran's teaching of *jinen*, which refers to the natural and spontaneous working of limitless wisdom and great compassion calling out to guide us. It was a nourishing reminder for me to do my best and that I will be sustained through the dynamic activity of infinite light and life. Through his actions, he constantly reminded me of the reality of interdependence as he made sure we all stayed afloat, and his friendship continues to do so.

May we all encounter many good dharma friends, and I hope you will all enjoy your day with Rev. Honda.

Gassho,

Rev. JP deGuzman

Kansai = Kyoto/Osaka region

Sensei = Teacher, honorific showing respect

Gambatte = No exact translation; context of facing challenges and doing your best and often said to teammates/cohorts for encouraging or supporting others to keep striving, 'go for it!'

The Legacies of Lady Eshinni and Lady Kakkushinni

Lady Eshinni and Shinran Shonin married around 1210. Eshinni was a nun, and also, as the daughter of a samurai, she was a landowner responsible for running the operations and providing for the servants' families on the land. (In feudal Japanese society, everyone has a role. Wives usually supervised the

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household and farming operations of the land.) As a landowner, she was able to support Shinran Shonin while he spread his teaching of the *Nembutsu*.

Shinran Shonin clarified the “*Nembutsu*”, the Primal Vow of the Amida Buddha “to embrace all beings”, to be open to all. “No one was excluded on the basis of class, gender, education, or other biases.”

Kakushinni was the youngest daughter of Eshinni and Shinran. After the death of her first husband, she came back with her son to live with her parents in Kyoto. When Eshinni needed to go back to her family lands to operate them around 1254, Kakushinni then cared for her father for about 9 years before he passed.

After Shinran Shonin passed, Eshinni and Kakushinni continued to spread his teachings of grace and compassion to all. Kakushinni married a follower of Shinran, and had another son. Her husband gave her some valuable land in Kyoto, with the rights to decide the final disposition of the land. “Kakushinni went beyond tradition and decided ...that the land would be jointly owned by the disciples of Shinran Shonin”, with the upkeep and protection of the lands to be inherited by Shonin’s descendants.

Nishi Hongwanji—A place where you belong

Nishi Hongwanji is a temple with two large religious halls standing side by side. Facing the halls, to the right is the Amidado (Amida Hall) which enshrines an image of Amida Buddha in the central altar. To the left is the Goeido (Founder’s Hall), which enshrines a statue of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition. Based on the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha to embrace all beings that is clarified by Shinran Shonin, this is a place that is open to all—where one can quietly spend time in reflection. We welcome you to spend some time inside of the temple halls.



Figure 1. a. Sign at the Nishi Hongwanji, the compound which Jodo Shinshu disciples jointly own with the administrative abbot, a descendant of Shinran Shonin. 1.b. Doug Wilson next to the map of Nishi Honganji (May 2025). 1.c. Memorial service at the temple with followers offering incense.

Quotes from Brochure “Eshinni and Kakushinni Shinran Shonin’s Wife and Daughter, and the Beginnings of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha”, by Rev. C. Myokai Himaka. Published by Buddhist Churches of America, <http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org> .